

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office action mailed October 8, 2003. The Examiner has required Applicants to elect to prosecute one of four groups of claims identified in the Office Action. Without acquiescing to the merits of the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, corresponding to claims 1-11 and 23-59.

In this regard, Applicants have canceled claims 12 – 22 and 60 - 125 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the non-elected claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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